UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1992/118
29 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992
Agenda item 2

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Letter dated 15 October 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, a letter from His Excellency, Mr. Milan Panić, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to the Secretary-General.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 2, entitled "Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters".

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter from the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like, first of all, to express my satisfaction at our meeting and talks we had in New York during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I informed you then in great detail about the steps my Government has taken to eliminate the reasons for imposing Security Council sanctions on Yugoslavia. I would like to assure you that my Government will continue to pursue vigorously its policy of peace aimed at finding a just and durable solution to the overall Yugoslav crisis. An active contribution by, and participation of, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the process of establishing peace in the territory of the former Yugoslavia precisely serve the efforts that the international community, in particular the United Nations, is making towards that end.

This time I wish to convey to you, on behalf of the Federal Government, its surprise at and disagreement with the ever more frequent instances in which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is being denied the right to participate in the organs of the United Nations other than Assembly bodies after the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 47/1. This is not in compliance either with resolution 47/1 or the view expressed by the Under-Secretary-General, the Legal Counsel, that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall not "participate in the work of the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs as well as conferences and meetings convened by it". This seriously undermines the efforts of my Government in the implementation of the goals set by it.

We are especially concerned by indications that the question of Yugoslavia's status will soon be raised also in the Economic and Social Council, which is an independent forum of the United Nations. However, I should like to use this opportunity to point out the significance that my country attaches to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in particular now that this body is increasingly gaining in importance and when growing efforts are being made to enhance its role within the United Nations system. Economic and social problems are key problems today and their resolution is being accorded priority, based on the recognition that they underlie many other problems facing the world community.

At a time when the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is plagued by enormous problems in economic and social fields, I believe that it would be highly inappropriate to bring into question its participation in the Economic and Social Council, the more so as Yugoslavia, as a member of this body, has always actively contributed to its work.

I should like to draw special attention to the negative impact that a decision on Yugoslavia's possible non-participation in the Economic and Social Council could have on the activities of my country within the Economic

Commission for Europe. We have had a developed cooperation with ECE in all areas, and this cooperation is important not only to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia but also to the region to which we belong. As regards the social and humanitarian area of the Economic and Social Council, the activities undertaken by Yugoslavia in the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as in the commissions for social development and narcotic drugs, are invaluable in conditions in which my country is making tremendous efforts to promote human rights.

Confident that I shall meet with your understanding and support one more time, I should like to ask Your Excellency to do everything in your power to enable the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue to carry out its activities in the Economic and Social Council and its bodies without any obstacles. This is primarily in the interest of settling the problems confronting Yugoslavia and of joint contribution to the process of restoring peace.

(Signed) Milan PANIĆ
Prime Minister of the
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia